

Alive



March 2007

Aims TV: It's everywhere

Fort Collins station makes four, Internet presence launched

With the launch of Channel 96 in Fort Collins and streaming video added to the Aims website, people across Northern Colorado and beyond can now find out the latest happenings at Aims just by switching on their television or logging on to their computer.

The college recently secured approval to air in Fort Collins on Channel 96, bringing the television presence of the college to four stations across Northern Colorado.

Aims has held a cable station in Greeley beginning in the early 1980s. More recently the college has partnered with the City of Fort Lupton to air Aims programming on Channel 16. In Loveland, Aims programming airs on Thompson School District's Channel 2, and plans are in the works for an exclusive Aims station there.

"Our broadcasting footprint has been evolving and growing over the years," said Director of Telelearning & Media Services Ken Sauer. "Expanding our viewership opens up new possibilities for content as well as raising awareness

beyond the greater Greeley area of the valuable educational opportunities Aims offers."

"The vision for Aims TV is to become a destination station," Sauer said. "One where viewers will have a real value-added experience, where they'll feel immediate gratification for

having really learned something from tuning in and they'll want to come to Aims for more."

Sauer said that with the latest expansions, the college has big plans for new content as well.

"We're moving from a content base that was largely informational and promotional into a focus on more personal enrichment and educational programming," he said.

In addition to new exercise videos led by Aims instructors, Sauer said new programming projects will focus on curriculum taught at Aims and its Continuing Education Division, healthy living and wellness, and an increased attention to community events. In an effort to air more fresh programming, more student and individually produced programming is being solicited.

To View Aims TV, Tune In To:

- Greeley: Ch. 22**
- Fort Collins: Ch. 96**
- Loveland: Ch. 2**
- Fort Lupton: Ch. 16**
- Or visit www.aims.edu and click on the "Channel 22 Watch it Now" icon**



Do the Arty Shuffle

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Aims President Marsi Liddell hosts UNC President Kay Norton on Liddell's show "Insights," which is filmed at the Aims television studio.



The right choice at every step

Nursing scholarships

Thanks to the generosity of long-time Greeley resident Roberta Miller, three nursing students at Aims will lighten their tuition by \$2,000 each this fall.

Miller, who joined the staff at the Weld County General Hospital back in 1972, devoted her career to nursing, first in direct patient care and then in management. She retired from North Colorado Medical Center in 1995 as a vice president for NorMedCo Services.

Her life-long commitment to the profession fueled by the current nursing shortage and

a desire to make a difference spurred her to create these scholarships, she said.

Scholarships

For more information about scholarships available at Aims, visit the Financial Aid office in General Services 241 or call Scholarship Coordinator Valerie Krise at 339-6399.

Applicants must carry at least a 2.5 GPA. Part-time and full-time students are eligible. Miller requested that non-traditional applicants who are students in the Associate Degree of Nursing program receive preference for the awards.

"Non-traditional students can have trouble finding funds, working and going to school," Miller said. "I worked my way through school, so I know how hard that can be."

The Roberta B. Miller Nursing Scholarships are just a few of the many opportunities Aims students have to ease the financial burdens associated with higher education. Students can now apply for scholarships online by visiting the Aims Financial Aid website at:

http://www.aims.edu/student/financial_aid/scholarships.htm

The priority scholarship application deadline is March 15.

"There are so many opportunities for students to earn scholarships to help reduce the cost of attending school," said Aims Scholarship Coordinator Valerie Krise. "I urge everyone who's attending or planning on attending Aims to investigate our scholarship opportunities."

Students tour construction site



Alliance Construction Solutions provided Construction Management and CAD/Engineering students an up front view of the renovations at Ed Beaty Hall. (See more pictures on Page 4.)

Construction Management and CAD/Engineering students got a reality check earlier this month when Alliance Construction Solutions Project Manager Chad Rock guest lectured for Instructor John Mangin, teaching a packed classroom about exterior wall systems and water management.

Rock is overseeing the construction of the 65,000-square-foot Allied Health & Sciences building currently going up on the Greeley campus.

The 20-year veteran of the industry discussed key issues in wall systems including sheathing, flashing and caulking; stud and expansion systems; masonry support, terminations, Tyvek, weeps, vents and penetrations.

Rock gave the students practical tips, peppered with tales from the field, offering sound advice such as:

"Never caulk the weep holes."

"Fight an inspector once and you wish you hadn't."

"In construction, you find a lot of big egos and a lot of know-it-alls. (Ask questions, no one knows it all.)"

"Mold is the new asbestos as far as how they relate to attorney fees."

"I don't like a building that relies on

caulking to keep it dry."

"Make sure everyone's on the same page."

"Keep it simple."

With these concepts fresh in their minds, Rock and Mangin then led the group through the renovations Alliance is overseeing in Ed Beaty Hall. The group observed the construction of the Allied Health & Sciences building from a safe distance. "We'll continue to schedule these classes throughout the construction," Rock said, promising an inside look at the new structure once conditions are appropriate for tours.

"It's such a great opportunity for our students to see this building going up right in front of them," Mangin said. "Seeing the remodeling at Ed Beaty Hall is a great experience too, because you run into a lot of issues you don't have to deal with in new construction."

Rock said he enjoys going into the classroom to share his experiences. "The point is to make construction more tangible and accessible to the students," he said. "The Aims students asked a lot of attentive and mentally involved questions. It's apparent they're being taught practical construction management, tools they'll be able to employ when they work for a contractor."

Helicopter pilot program takes off

With a final stamp of approval from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, the Aims Helicopter program has taken off as the only degree-based helicopter pilot training program in the state.

Working in partnership with Loveland-based Front Range Helicopters, the college now offers a 61-credit associate degree in the Professional Helicopter Pilot program.

"What's so unique about this program in Colorado is the fact that students can qualify for financial aid," said Aims Aviation Department Chair Gina West. "We've been getting a lot of interest from military personnel who can use their veteran benefits, too."

Helicopter Program

For more information about the Aims Helicopter Pilot program, contact Don Griffith with Front Range Helicopters at 663-7200 or the Aims Aviation department at 339-6472.

Students train with pilot-instructors from Front Range Helicopters, navigating the course sequence that includes Private Pilot, Instrument Rating, Commercial Pilot, and Certified Flight Instructor I and II. The course work is a mix of ground instruction, simulator training and flight time.

"We are very excited about the program," said Don Griffith with Front Range Helicopters. "A lot of work went into getting this going. It's a unique program with a lot of opportunities."



Helicopter Pilot students train in Schweizer 330Cs pictured here.



Marcos Parra, center, observes Aims CAD/Engineering instructor John Lenz revealing the final product from a 3-D modeler. Students from around Weld county visited Aims for a day to learn about the Career and Technical Education programs offered at Aims.

Highschoolers tour programs

Approximately 150 students from local high schools came to the Greeley Campus on Feb. 9 and 23 to participate in CTE Career Days, a day-long session designed to give high school students an introduction to the Career and Technical Education programs at Aims. Students meet with various CTE program instructors, ask questions and learn the steps required to get started at Aims.

"The day is beneficial for students because it gets them interacting with and engaged in the programs," said Dana Anderson, Program Coordinator of Recruitment for Aims.

Marcos Parra, a senior in the Weld County High School Diploma Program, said his experience at CTE Career Days was very informative.

"The volunteers and instructors are so much fun," he said. "I appreciate their willingness to answer my questions. I like learning what my options are."

Parra spent the day with a group of five other high school students visiting

with current students and instructors in various departments. They asked questions and learned more about the degrees and certificates available, the hands-on training and future career opportunities.

This is the second year Aims has put on a CTE Career Days event.

"Next year we hope to do a better job of putting together programs that are related to each other," Anderson said. "Students might sign up for Emergency Medical Services because they're interested in it but they really don't know about our other health programs. So, for example, we'll offer a health day where students go through all the health sciences programs."

Northridge student Carlos Chavez came to CTE Career Days to find out more about the fire science program. He said the day was very helpful.

"It's been great to ask questions about the programs and get the inside information," he said. "I will definitely consider coming to Aims."

Faculty

Step up to the challenge



Richard Hanks

Ask Aims Psychology Professor Richard Hanks what his favorite topic to teach is, and he doesn't skip a beat. The answer: self-efficacy.

"Self-efficacy has to do with a person's belief in their ability to take on a task or a challenge," he said. "It's a really powerful component to

who we are as individuals."

Hanks has been teaching psychology full-time at Aims for five years. Before that he held a private practice specializing in health psychology. Prior to that, he had 20 years of experience in community mental health, criminal justice and working with people with developmental disabilities.

Hanks said one of his most powerful tools as a professor is applying his real-life experience to concepts covered in the classroom.

"I can tell students, 'This is what it's like to talk to someone who is schizophrenic or has a learning disability or is depressed,'" he said. "It gives them a more in depth and practical knowledge. I enjoy it, but it's also a good way of teaching."

As for the concept of self-efficacy, Hanks said it's valuable for students to not only understand it in an academic sense, but also be able to apply it to their own lives.

"Self-efficacy is the idea of, 'I'm willing to give this a try. I believe I can take on this challenge,'" he said. "One thing I'm trying to get students to realize and use is their own self-efficacy, because that's something that helps them become a better student and it helps them take on and accomplish their goals and challenges in life. Without self-efficacy, you might never take the first step."

Hanks, who earned his Master's and Doctorate degrees at UNC, said he enjoys the atmosphere of the learning community at Aims.

"Everybody who's here is doing something that's important and constructive in their lives," he said. "If I can facilitate that and watch that happen and participate in that, well, it's very motivating, rewarding and helpful in my own process of growth."

Images Around Aims



High school students from around the county visited the Greeley campus for a day in February to get a taste of the Career and Technical Education programs offered at Aims. Above students try their hand at collecting fingerprints from a crime scene while visiting the Criminal Justice Department. Below, students practice taking vital signs during their visit to the Emergency Medical Services program (See story on page 3).



Images Around Aims

Students

Finding direction

When Wesley Scripps came to Aims, he couldn't figure out what he wanted to do. He had started at the University of Northern Colorado and then quit, thinking he just wanted a break from school.

"I had a lack of direction," said the 24-year-old husband and father. "But I did want to go back to school, so I chose to come to Aims and ended up staying because the program I got into is so great."

Scripps spent about a semester studying geology but it wasn't what he had in mind. He found his niche when he took some graphic technology classes to satisfy his interest in computers and technology.

"I loved it," he said. "After we had our first baby last winter, I was pulling a lot of all-nighters and I had a ton of work to do in school. But that's when I realized just how much I loved what I was doing."

Scripps had the opportunity to intern at Food Network in New York this past fall. The first project he got to work on was a promotional tip card for the hit television show "Ace of Cakes."

"At first, I was assigned to all the organizational duties, making sure the computers were okay and getting all the filing done," he said. "But then they started giving me actual design projects. It was a lot of fun."

Scripps will graduate with an associate of applied science degree this summer. He said he will go on to earn a four-year degree in business and hopes to provide in-house design services at a marketing firm. He credits his instructors for bringing a lot of insight from the industry to the classroom.

"Aims is a good school with solid teachers," Scripps said. "It's a great start for anybody, especially if you don't know what you want to do."



Wesley Scripps



As part of a year-long celebration of the College's 40th Anniversary, Aims held an Arty Gras event on Feb. 20 featuring everyone's favorite mascot, Arty the Aardvark. Above, Arty likes to party with Student Director of Faculty Series and Virtual Student Activities Kerri Berry, who offered King Cakes in the spirit of Mardi Gras. Left, Emily Berry does the Arty shuffle with the furry ant-eating dancing machine.

Program

Stick it to me

This spring, Aims launched a new phlebotomy certificate option under the Alcanzar program. The certificate is one of six certificates available through the program. Alcanzar, which means “to reach” in Spanish, is funded by a \$325,000 grant from Colorado Trust. The program introduces students to the career opportunities available in healthcare.

Phlebotomy students take two classes within one semester for a total of eight credits. The first class covers basic safety and teaches students how to collect a specimen, dress the wound and control infection. The second course covers trauma, neonatal and geriatric care and advanced

Phlebotomy

For more information on any of the Alcanzar programs, contact Chris Urso at chris.urso@aims.edu or 339-6464.

phlebotomy techniques. “Sometimes the veins are not readily available,” said Alcanzar Program Coordinator Chris Urso. “So the phlebotomist needs to know how to get the job done in that

situation.”

After completing both classes, students are eligible to take the National Phlebotomy Registry Exam. “The certification is not required to get a job, but it does increase starting pay,” Urso said.

Phlebotomy student Mandy Andrade got hooked on health sciences when she attended the annual health camp at Aims last summer, which is also supported through the Colorado Trust. Andrade went on to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) before signing up for phlebotomy.

“It just seemed like the next step,” she said. “I’m not sure whether I will pursue a career in surgical technology or go on to become an RN, but I know that I’ll need to get used to the blood.”

Graduates of the program can find work at a blood bank or in a hospital. With some extra training, they can learn even more advanced phlebotomy procedures, Urso said.

“I really like the program because it’s only 15 weeks, and the schedule works out really well for me,” Andrade said.

Featured Events

MARCH 14

HUMAN2HUMAN SERIES

MEDIA DISCRIMINATION

Fort Collins Weekly Editor-in-Chief Joel Dyer will be on the Greeley campus to lead a discussion on Media Discrimination from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the College Center, room 727, March 14.

Dyer and his work have been featured on numerous national television programs in the past ten years including the CBS, NBC and ABC Nightly News, 48 Hours, Nightline, MSNBC’s Behind the Story, Today Show, Good Morning America, and numerous programs on the Fox Network. In addition, he is currently a writer for World Affairs Television.

The event is free and open to the public. Lunch will be served. Contact Jennifer Naimark at jennifer.naimark@aims.edu for more information.

MARCH 5

COFFEE HOUSE WITH EMILYN INGLIS

10:30 a.m.
Free coffee, danishes
Traditional folk & country
College Center Lounge

MARCH 8

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING
2:30 p.m. College Center

MARCH 9

HYPNOTIST JIM WAND

College Center Lounge
noon to 1 p.m. Free pizza. For more information call the Student Life office at 339-6450

MARCH 9

COMEDY NIGHT

10 p.m.
Live stand-up comedy
Rated R – for adults only
DVD & CD door prizes
Coffee & cookies served

MARCH 12 - 30

CHARITY CLOTHING DRIVE

Clothing of all sizes to be collected at various points around campus and donated to United Way

MARCH 13

MOVIE TUESDAY

Casino Royale (rated PG-13)
7 p.m., College Center Lounge

MARCH 19 - 23

SPRING BREAK!

Have a safe and enjoyable break!

MARCH 28

COFFEE HOUSE

Featuring Aims Student Erin Armstrong
10 to 11:30 a.m.

MARCH 30

MARCH MADNESS

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. College Center Lounge

For more information on these events, contact Student Life at 339-6450

Alumni

Featured Classes

The following courses are offered through the Aims Continuing Education Division. In addition to the many classes offered throughout the year, Aims Continuing Education specializes in developing customized training for businesses. To find out more about customized training options, contact Michele Reynolds at 339-6390 or michele.reynolds@aims.edu.

ABCs OF WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

This six-week program is designed to help you achieve your weight goals and also reduce your risk for disease. Weekly seminars and group meetings provide the support, knowledge and skills you need to succeed. Weekly lessons include:

- Week 1: Calories In vs. Calories Out.
- Week 2: Focus on Health and Wellness
- Week 3: Getting Back to Basics
- Week 4: Dishing Out Healthy Portions
- Week 5: Recipe for Success
- Week 6: Overcoming Emotional Eating & Barriers to Healthful Living

This class is being funded by a federal grant "Steps to a Healthier Weld County" through the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment. There will be a \$5 cost to defray expenses incurred by Aims Community College.

Thursdays, March 8 through April 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Program Cost: \$5

Instructor: Kelly Leonard

Greeley Continuing Education Division

THE BASIC LAWS OF ADVERTISING

Everyone who advertises should know the legal aspect concerning the basic law of advertising. Come learn about advertising regulations, liability, ways to resolve disputes and what your rights are.

March 13 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Program Cost: \$36

Instructor: JoAnne Hagen

Greeley Continuing Education Division

BASIC FRENCH FOR TRAVELERS

This class is designed for non-French speaking people who plan to travel or vacation to France and who need functional French language skills and cross-cultural understanding to comfortably function there. No prior knowledge of French is necessary.

Program Cost: \$99 plus cost of textbook

Saturdays, March 17 through April 7, 9 a.m. to noon

Instructor: H. Balligand

Greeley Continuing Education Division

Aims Continuing Education Division also offers basic language courses for travelers in Italian, German, Spanish and Japanese.

Distinguished alum

Before enrolling in classes at Aims, Matthew Swaffer had no idea what he wanted to do with his life. His senior manager at FedEx had complimented him on his talent with computers and encouraged him to take some classes.

"I chose to come to Aims first because I thought it would make the transition a lot easier for me, especially since I was a non-traditional student," he said. "I wasn't sure of myself and had no idea that I could excel in the academic environment."

But Swaffer did excel. Within his first year at Aims, anthropology professor Roger DeWitt nominated him for the Distinguished Scholar Award. Swaffer said he never dreamed he would do well in school, and he certainly didn't think anyone would notice if he did.

"When Roger stopped me after class one day to tell me he was nominating me for the Distinguished Scholar Award, I started to think that this college thing really could work for me," he said. "I decided at that point to go on to the University of Northern Colorado to earn a four-year degree."

With the help of Aims advisors, Swaffer discovered his true passion was working with computers in the business field. He transferred to UNC and graduated summa cum laude in 2005 with a degree in business. Today, Swaffer works for Eclipse Software Systems, Inc., putting his computer programming skills to work by creating business applications.

"The job is everything I hoped for when I first contemplated a career change," he said.

When others ask him about his experience, Swaffer tells them to come to Aims and at least take some classes.

"I think once most people get here, they'll get right into it," he said. "Everyone was really helpful and no one made me feel stupid. It's great to be with people who are genuinely interested in helping you."



Matthew Swaffer

Standing next to giants



Tom Pentecost

Last spring I was honored by my faculty colleagues to be selected as the Aims College Education Association's faculty of the year. As a result of this award, it was my honor and privilege to represent Aims Community College faculty at the Colorado Community College

System Faculty Luncheon on Feb. 14. Attending this luncheon brought many of those same thoughts and emotions back to the surface.

It was and is very humbling to have been selected by the Aims faculty for this recognition. At the luncheon I had the opportunity to say a few words about my award. I began by paraphrasing Isaac Newton – "If I am good, it is not because I stand on the shoulders of giants – it is because I stand next to giants."

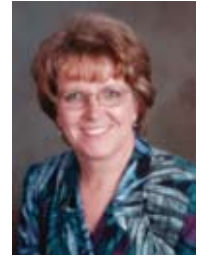
I feel that at Aims we have a faculty of giants. A commitment to the intellectual development of and growth of our students permeates the faculty at Aims. I have been fortunate to work with outstanding educators that continually reinvent their teaching and their courses in an effort to improve student learning.

To be able to do this requires not only mastery of content knowledge but a thorough knowledge about how students learn. It is this knowledge about learning that distinguishes a science educator from a scientist, or a mathematics educator from a mathematician. The educator must be comfortable in both areas of scholarship. I feel that Aims is fortunate to have a faculty of educators and it is a privilege to be recognized by this group.

I often tell people that if I am any good at being a spouse or a parent it is because of my parents. It is also true that if I am any good at being an educator it is because of the excellent faculty with whom I work.

Tom Pentecost is a Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Natural Sciences Department at Aims.

What do you know about Early Childhood Education? with Kathy Hamblin Education Program Director



For more information about the Education program at Aims, contact Kathy Hamblin at 339-6501 or kathy.hamblin@aims.edu.

- It is perfectly normal for a 3-year-old to ask at least 20 "why" questions a day.
- Maintaining a predictable routine for children contributes to their developing ability to solve problems.
- There is strong evidence that children learn more from playing with toys and each other than from watching television or playing video games.
- Most babies really like it when we sing to them whether we sing well or not.
- Reading to young children daily improves their school readiness dramatically.
- The education level of a young child's teacher is directly proportional to the child's success in school.
- A child's skills development in reading, writing and mathematics is very much related to the amount of time they play with open-ended materials such as blocks, dough, cubes, clay, pegs, water, finger paint, sand, wood and brush paint.



Board of Trustees member Beth Bashor visited the Aims Monfort Early Childhood Education Center and read a book to the children.

Aims Alive

Aims Alive is published by Aims Community College. If you have suggestions for stories you would like to see covered in Aims Alive or comments and feedback on any of the stories featured here, contact Aims Alive Editor Amy Kegg at (970) 339-6206 or amy.kegg@aims.edu. If you would like to receive a copy electronically, contact Bethany DuBois in Aims Public Information Office at (970) 339-6365 or bethany.dubois@aims.edu. To view the online version in color, go to www.aims.edu/aims_info/PIO/aims_alive/index.htm. Photos by Aims Staff Photographer Robert Waltman and Media Producer G. Mark Lewis.